

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 322

By Faulk

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mackenzie J. Laster for her great courage and resourcefulness.

WHEREAS, over much of its history, Tennessee has been known as the Volunteer State because it has been the home of so many valiant men, women, and children who have responded with great courage and strength of character in times of trouble and adversity, whether in war or peace; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessean is eight-year-old Mackenzie J. Laster, who, on April 6, 2009, acted with courage and resourcefulness to save the life of her mother and help prevent a structure fire that could have had serious consequences; and

WHEREAS, on that fateful evening, young Mackenzie Laster responded instantaneously when she heard the smoke detector alarm in the house; and

WHEREAS, with the presence of mind of someone much older, she woke her mother, Melissa Laster, who was asleep for the evening, warning her that the house was on fire; after the two were able to exit the house safely, Melissa Laster was able to call emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the mother and daughter were the only two occupants of the house, and both escaped without injury; and

WHEREAS, units from the Bulls Gap and Persia Volunteer Fire Departments responded within minutes, handling the situation with true professionalism, and making sure that everyone was safe; and

WHEREAS, a truly remarkable youngster, Mackenzie Laster initiated actions which helped save both her life and her mother's life, and she should be commended for her quick and appropriate response; and

WHEREAS, Mackenzie Laster clearly demonstrated awareness far in excess of what might be expected from one so young; her astute action is clearly deserving of special recognition and praise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Mackenzie Laster for her outstanding demonstration of courage, resourcefulness, and presence of mind, as we join with all the citizens of Tennessee in expressing our admiration and appreciation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our best wishes to Mackenzie Laster and her family for every success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.